

REMARKS:

The Examiner is thanked for the Office Action of March 8, 2005, and for the indication that claims 5, 7, 8, 16-19 and 23-27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 5. Specifically, amended claim 1 provides that the first member includes at least one aperture spaced from the first opening, and that the second member includes at least one projection spaced from the second opening. The projection is releasably securable within the aperture so that the first and second members form a top lock.

Note that originally filed claim 5 improperly depended from claim 5. However, Applicants have amended claim 4 and 5 to provide for a plurality of apertures and a plurality of projections, respectively. Claim 5 now depends from claim 4, which depends from claim 1.

Independent claim 13 has been similarly amended, wherein the first L-shaped member includes a second leg having at least one aperture. The second L-shaped member has a second leg having at least one projection that is releasably securable within the aperture so that the first and second L-shaped members form the top lock. Claims 16 and 17 have also been amended to provide for a plurality of spaced apertures and a plurality of spaced projections, respectively.

Finally, method claim 22 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 23, as indicated by the Examiner. Accordingly, claim 23 has been canceled.

Applicant submits that Sullivan fails to disclose or suggest a fastener system as claimed by Applicant. The '443 patent fails to include a base having first and second prongs extending from opposite ends thereof, with a first member having a first opening for receiving the first prong, and a second member having a second opening for receiving the second prong, wherein the first member includes at least one aperture and the second member includes at least one projection. The projection is releasably securable within the aperture so that the first and second members form a top lock.

In light of the amendments herein, Applicant submits that all rejections have been overcome. Allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested. It is believed that no fee is due with this submission. Should that determination be incorrect, then please debit Account No. 50-0548 and notify the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. C. Schrot', written in a cursive style.

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